



## TO THE TRVLY

Loyall hearted , learned, well-  
accomplished Gentleman, Mr.

*Aribibald Rankin.*

SIR, RT 23 a. 160 27

**B**eing injoyned by the  
ghost or Genius of old John  
Garrett a man well knowne  
and beloued ) to collect  
gleane, or gather, a bundle or trusse of  
Mirth, and for his sake to bestrow the  
stage of the melancholly world with  
it ; and withall to present it to some  
one generous spirit, who was old Johns  
friend ; I thought vpon many to  
whom I might haue made my Dedi-  
cation, who were both Royal, Hono-  
rable, Worshipfull, and all wel-affe-  
cted towards him : As to intencion one

*A 2 d 1 for*

12  
*The Epistle.*

for all, that Iewell of the world, and  
richest Iem of her sex, that Magazine  
of the two inestimable Iewels, *Pati-  
ence* and *Fortitude*: to that Illustrious  
peerelesse princesse I might haue re-  
commended it, to whose seruice, and  
for whose happiness, his life and best  
endeauours, with his prayers and im-  
plorations at his death, were vnfained.  
Iy consecrated. But my manners con-  
ciuynge the subject of this booke, of  
altogether too triuiall a nature to be  
sheltred vnder the shaddow of the  
winges of transcendent and admired  
Maiesy; I stept so many steps downe  
the staires with my inuention, when  
by good fortune, I met with you,  
whom I knew did loue that old honest  
mirrour of mirth, deceased; & whom  
the world better knowes, a creature de-  
voted friend to honest harmelesse  
mirth, and laudable recreation.



I therefore entreat you, that (when  
your moare serions affaires wil permit)

you

you would bestow the looking vpon  
these my poore and beggerly ward-  
robe of witty Iestes, whom I dare not  
call Apothegmes.

And because I had many of them  
by relation and hear-say, I am in  
doubt that some of them may bee in  
print in some other Authors, which I  
do assure you is more then I do know; s  
which if it be so, I pray you but to  
conniue or tollerate, and let the Au-  
thors make twice as bold with mee at  
any time.

Thus wishing euery one to mende  
one, whereby the rent and torne gar-  
ments of Thred-bare Time may bee  
well and merrily patched and repai-  
red, crauing your pardon, with my best  
wishes, I remaine *Yrs mai*

*J. TAYLOR* Yours ever in the  
best of my best  
studies herof,

JOHN TAYLOR

more at my best  
wishes I desire you to make  
the best use of it you can  
for it is a pretty Book



10

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# JOHN GARRETS GHOST.

H E doores and windowes  
of the Heauens were barr'd,  
And nights blacke Curtaine,  
like an Ebon Robe,  
From earth did all Celestiall light discard,  
And in sad darknesse clad the ample Globe ;  
Dead midnight came, the Cats gan catterwaule,  
The time when Ghosts and Goblins walke about  
Bats flie, Owles shrick, & dismall dogs do bawle  
Whiles conscience cleare securely sleepes it out.  
At such a time I sleeping in my bed,  
A vision strange appear'd unto my sight,  
Amazement all my senses overspread,  
And fill'd me full with terror and affright,  
A merry graue aspect me thought he had,  
And one he seem'd that I had often seene :  
Yet was he in such vncouth shape y clad,  
That what he was I could not wistly weene.  
His cloake was Sacke, but not the Sacke of Spain  
Canara, Mallago, or sprightfull Shery,  
But made of Sack-cloth, such as beares the grain

## *John Garrets Ghost.*

Good salt, & coles, which makes Porter's weary,  
Lac'd round about with platted wheaten straw,  
For which he nothing to the silkeman owed :  
**A** wearing never mention'd in the Law,  
And yet farre off, like good gold lace it shew'd.  
Lin'd was his mantle with good Essex plush,  
Pide Calues skins, or Veale fattin, which you wil  
It never was worne thredbare with a brush,  
It (naturally) sau'd the labour still.  
**A** hat like *Granham* steeple, for the crowne  
**O**r Piramide was large in altitude :  
With frugall brim, whereby he still was knowne  
From other men amongst the multitude,  
**A** Princes shooe, he for a jewell wore,  
Two ribbons, and a feather in his bauer,  
Which shape me thought I oft had scene before,  
Yet out of knowledge were, as't had been never  
He in his hand a flaming torch did hold,  
(And as he nearer did approach to me)  
My haire gan stand on end, feare strucke me cold,  
Fear not I am *John Garrets* ghost, quoth he.  
I come to muse thy dull and lazy Muse  
From idling, from Lethe's hatefull lake :  
And therefore stand upon no vaine excuse,  
But rise, and to thy tooles thy selfe betake.  
Remember me, although my carkasse rot,  
Write of me, to me, call me Foole or Iester,  
But yet I pray thec (*Taylor*) ranke me not,

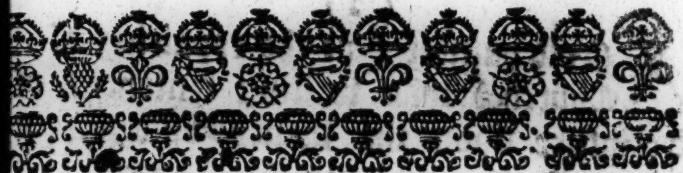
Among

## *John Garret's Ghost.*

mong those knaves that doe the world bepest  
hou wrōt'st of Great Otoole and Coriat,  
Of braue Sir Thomas Parsons, Knight o'th Sun,  
And Archy hath thy verse to glory at,  
And yet for me thou nought hast euer done.  
Write that in *Ireland* I in *Mars* his trayne,  
Long time did vnder noble *Norris* serue :  
Where (as I could) I stood gainst Pope and *Spain*,  
Whilſt ſomewere ſlain, & ſome w<sup>t</sup> want did ſcaru  
Where ſhot & wounds, & knockes, I gaue & took,  
Untill at laſt halfe maimed as I was,  
man decripit, I thofe warres forſooke  
And (with my Paffe) did to my Country paſſe.  
Where getting health, I then ſhooke hands with  
And to the Court I often made reſort. (death  
Where *Englands* mighty Queene *Elizabeth*  
Allow'd me entertainment for diſport,  
Then by the foretop did I take old time :  
Then were not halfe ſo many fooles as now,  
Then was my harveſt, and my onely prime,  
My purſe receiving what my wit did plow,  
Then in ſuch compaſſe I my jests would hold,  
That though I gaue a man a gird or twaine :  
All his reuenge would be to giue me gold,  
With commendations of my nimble braine!  
Thus liu'd I till that gracious Queene decaſt,  
Who was ſucceeded by a famous King :  
In whose bleſt Sons reigne (I with yeare oppreſt  
Me)

## *John Garretts Ghost.*

Me to my graue sicknesse and death did bring.  
And now (kind lacke) thou seest my ayrie form  
Hath shaken off her layle of fleshe and bone,  
Whilst they remaine the feast of many a worm,  
My better part doth visit thee alone.  
And as betweene us still our good requestis,  
Thou never me, I never thee denyd:  
So for my sake collect some metry I estis,  
Wherby sad time maybe with mirth supply'd.  
And when tis written find some good man forth  
One (as thou thinkst) was when I liu'd my friend:  
And thoughty lines may be but little worth,  
Yet unto him my duty recommend,  
So farewel lacke, dame *Luna* ginsto rise,  
The twinkling stars begin to borrow light:  
Remember this my fuit I thee advise,  
And so once more good honest *Jack* good night.  
With that more twister then a shaft from bow,  
He cut and curried through the empty ayre,  
Whilst I amaz'd with feare, as cold as snow,  
Straight felte my spirits quickly to repaire.  
And though I found it but a dreame indeed,  
Yet for his sake of whom I dreamed then,  
I lefte my bed, and cloath'd my self with speed,  
And presently betooke me to my pen:  
*Cleare* was the morn, and *Phoebus* lent me light,  
And (as it followeth) I began to write,



## Wit and Mirth.

( 1 )

**M**y selfe carried an olde fellow  
by water, that had wealth  
enough to bee Deputy of the  
Ward, and wit sufficient for  
a Scavenger : the water be-  
ing somewhat rough, he was afraid, and  
( in stead of saying his prayers ) he threat-  
ned me, that if I did droouye him he would  
see me hanged for it ; I desired him to bee  
quiet and feare nothing, and so in little  
space I landed him at the Beares Colledg  
on the Bank-side, ( alias Paris Garden,) Well ( said hee ) I am glad I am off the  
water, for if the Boate had miscaried, I  
could haue swum no more then a Goose.;

( 2 ) **Ag**

*John Garretts Ghost.*

Me to my grane sicknesse and death did bring.  
And now (kind lacke) thou seest my ayrie form  
Hath shaken off her Layle of flesh and bone,  
Whilst they remaine the feast of many a worm,  
My better part doth visit thee alone.  
And as betweene us still our good requestes,  
Thou never me I neuer thee denyd.  
So for my sake collect some metry Iests,  
Wherby sad time maybe with mirth supply'd.  
And when tis written find some good man forth  
One (as thou thinkst) was when I liu'd my friend:  
And though thy lines may be but little worth,  
Yet unto him my duty recommend,  
So fare well lacke, dame *Lana* ginato rise,  
The twinkling stars begin to borrow light:  
Remember this my suit I thee advise,  
And so once more good honest *Jack* good night  
With that more swifter then a shaft from bow,  
He aw and curied through the empty ayre,  
Whilst I amazed with feare, as cold as snow,  
Straight fel my spirites quickly to repaire.  
And though I found it but a dreame indeed,  
Yet for his sake of whom I dreamed then,  
I left my bed, and cloath'd my self with speed:  
And presently betooke me to my pen:  
Cleare was the morn, and Phoebus sent me light  
And (as it followeth) I began to write,

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## Wit and Mirth.

(1)

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Ward, and wit sufficient for  
a Scavenger : the water be-  
ing somewhat rough, he was afraid, and  
(in stead of saying his prayers) he threat-  
ned me, that if I did drown him he would  
see me hanged for it ; I desired him to bee  
quiet and feare nothing, and so in little  
space I landed him at the Beates Colledg  
on the Bank-side, (alias Paris Garden,)   
Well ( said hee ) I am glad I am off the  
water, for if the Boate had miscaried, I  
could haue bin no more then a Goose.

Wit

(2)

( 2 )

A ~~old~~ painter ( at the repairing of a Church ) was writing sentences of Scripture upon the walles, by chance a friend of mine came into the Church, and reading them perceived much false English : old man, said my friend, why doe you not write true English ? Alas Sir, quoth the Painter, they are poore simple people in this Parish, and they will not goe to the cost of it..

( 3 )

To men being late at a Table, one against the other, the one of them having a cup in his hand, dranke to the other, saying, Here Opposite I will drinke to you : Opposite said the other (being angry) what is that, I would not have thee put any of thy nicknames upon mee, for thou shalt wel know that I am no more opposite then thy selfe, or the skinne betweene thy browses.

( 4 )

A wealthy Monsieur in France, , ( ha-  
ving profound reuenerues, and shal-  
lows

## Wit and Mirth

olw braine) was told by his man that hee  
id continually gape in his sleepe, at which  
hee was angry with his man, saying, hee  
would not beleue it: his man verifid it to  
hee true, his master said that hee would ne-  
er beleue any that told him so, except  
noth be, I chance to see it with mine swyne  
yes: and therefore I will haue a great  
vking glasse hanged at my beds feete  
or the purpose to try whether thou art a  
ing knaue or not.

(5)

He said Monsieur commaunded his  
man to buy him a gray hat, with a  
utton on the brim to button it up behinde:  
is man bought him one, & brought him, he  
ut it on his head with the button before,  
which when hee looked in the glasse and  
aw, he was very angry saying, thou crosse  
ontoward knaue, did I not bid thee buy a  
hat with the button to hold it vp behinde,  
and thou hast brought me one that turnes  
vp before: I command thee once more goe  
thy wayes, and buy mee such a one as I  
would haue, whatsoeuer it cost me.

(6) The

## Wit and Mirth.

(6)

The same Gallant as hee travellled  
would have a Goose to his Supper,  
which when she was roasted and brought  
to the Table, he said she stanke: not so  
hope, said the Hoste, it cannot be, for I am  
sure she was alibe since you came into the  
house: That may be quoth the Monsieur  
~~but then I am sure that you kill her when~~  
she was living, she would never stinke so  
else.

(7)

A exceeding tall Gentlewoman was  
riding behind a very short little man  
so that the mans head reached no higher  
then her breast, which the aforesaid Monsieur  
perceiving, said Madam you will ride  
a great deale better, if you put your leggs  
over that faire pumell of your saddle.

Another time he chanced to mette a Lad  
of his acquaintance, and asked her how she  
did, and how her good Husband fared; at  
which word she wept, saying that her hus-  
band was in heauen, in heauen, quoth her  
it is the first time that I heard of it, and  
am so zry for it with all my heart.

(8)

Wit and Mirth.

Pull of my *Boots and Spurs*, I you beseech  
when Spurrs & boots is rather proper speech.

(71)

A Fellow made his boast that he rode  
220 miles with one horse and never  
drew bit: that may be (quoth another) per-  
haps you rid him with a halter.

The proverb saies, he that wil swear wil ly.  
He that will lye will steal by consequence:  
Swearers are lyers, lyers most are cheates,  
Or God helpe Taylors, & true Vndershaines

(72)

Offe saw a decayed Gentleman in a  
very thredbare cloake, said to him  
Sir you haue a very watchfull cloake on:  
Why said the poore Gentleman i the o-  
ther answered, I doe not thinke it had a  
good nap this seuen yeares: the Gentle-  
man replied, and truly sir me thinkes you  
want a nap as as well as my cloake, for you  
talke idely for want of sleepe.

The prodigall at poverty doth scoffe,  
Though from his back the begger's not far  
off.

Here flout with flout, and bob with bob is  
quitted;

And proud vainglorious folly finely fitted,

P

(73)

## Wit and Mirth.

(73)

A Diligent and learned Preacher on a Sunday in the afternoone was preaching, whilist most of the zealous Vestry men (for their meaner edification) were fast asleepe in their pues, in the meane space a young child cry'd somewhat aloud at the lower end of the Church, which the Preacher hearing called to the Nurse and said, Nurse, I pray thee still thy childe or else it may chance to awaken some of the best men in our parish.

Men sleepe at Sermons, sure their brains are adle, (cradle : Sly Satan lulls them, and doth rocke the When men thus do no ill tis understood, The devill hinders them from doing good.

(74)

A Chorister or singing man at service in a Cathedrall Church, was a sleepe when all his fellowes were singing, which the Deane espying sent a boy to him to waken him, and asked him why he did not sing ? he being sudently awaked, prayed the boy to thanke master Deane for his kinde remembrance, and to tell him that he was as merry as those that did sing.

They

## Wit and Mirth.

They say he's wise that can himselfe keepe  
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They

warme,  
And that the man that sleeps well thinks no  
harme :  
He sung not yet was in a merry mood,  
Like John Indifferent, did nor harme nor  
good.

(75)

A kind of clownish gentleman had halfe  
a Brawne sent him against Christmas  
he very liberally gane the Seruingman  
halfe a shilling that brought it : the Ser-  
vingman gane the Porter that carried it  
eight pence before the Gentlemans face.  
Sirrah, said he, are you so prodigall to re-  
ward the porter with eight pence, when I  
gave you but sixe pence : thou bearest the  
mind of a prodigall Gallant, although by  
thy foote thou seemest a lubberly clowne :  
Good sir, said the fellow, I confesse I have  
a very clownish lubberly paire of feete, but  
yet I am perswaded that a paire of your  
worshps shooes would fit them well.  
Heres Rose & Brawne together are wel met  
He knew that giving was no way to get,  
The world gets somewhat by the Prodigal  
When as the Mizer gets the diuell and all.

D 2

(76) A

## Wit and Mirth

(76)

A Griping extortioneer that had bene a maker of beggars for the space of forty yeares, and by raising rents and oppres-  
sion had undone many families, saies on a  
time in anger to a poore fellow that had  
stolen a shewe of his, Ah villaine, darest thou  
rob me, I dow and sweare there is not so  
damned a rogue in the world as thou : to  
whom the fellow answered, I beseech your  
god worship remember your selfe and be  
good to me for Gods sake, and for your  
owne sake.

This Rascals eye is with a beame so blind,  
That in the poore mans he a moat can find:  
The wolf himself, a temperate feeder deems  
And euery man too much himself esteems

(77)

A Servitingman and his mistris was  
Alanding at the Whitefryars stayers,  
the stayers being very bad, a waterman  
offered to helpe the weman, saying, Give  
me your hand Gentlewoman helpe you,  
to whom her man replied, you sawcy fel-  
low place your words right, my mistris is  
no gentlewoman, she is a Lady.

All

## Wit and Mirth.

All is not gold (they say) that glisters bright  
Snow is not suger, though it looke as white  
And tis approved to be true and common,  
That every Lady's not a Gentlewoman.

(78)

A Servicingman going in hast in London,  
(minding his businesse more then his  
way) a Gallant iustled him from the wall  
almost into the kennell, the fellow turned  
about, and asked the Gentleman why he  
did iustle him so? the Gentleman said, Be-  
cause he would not giue the wall to a sawcy  
knaue, The Servicingman replyed, your  
worship is not of my mind so, I will.

Here Pride that takes humility in snusse,  
Is well encouerted with a counterbuffe:  
One would not giue the wall vnto a knaue.  
The other would, and him the wall he gaue

(79)

A Justice of the Peace was very angry  
with a country yeman because he  
came not to him at his first sending for him  
and after he had bountifullly bestowed tw  
or three dozen of knaues vpon him, he said  
to him; Sirrah, I will make you know  
that the proudest saucy knaue that dwells

## Wit and Mirth.

Under my command shall come before me  
When I send for him, I beseech your worship  
Said the man to pardon me, for I was  
afraid : afraid of what said the Justice ?  
your worship answered the fellow. Of me  
said the Justice ? why wast thou afraid of  
me ? Because your worship lookes so like a  
Lyon, said the man : a Lyon quoth the Ju-  
stice when didst thou see a Lyon ? may it  
please your worship ( the fellow replied ) I  
saw a butcher bring one but yesterday to  
Colebrooke market with a white face, and  
his four legs bound.

This fellow was a knave, or foole, or both  
Or else his wit was of but slender growth :  
He gaue the whitefac'd calfe the Lions stile  
The Justice was a proper man the while.

( 80 )

**D**ivers Gentlemen being merry to-  
ther, at last one of their acquaintance  
came to them ( whose name was Sampson )  
he said one of them, now wee may be se-  
arely merry, no Sargent or Williffe dare  
touch vs, for if a thousand Philistims come,  
here is Sampson, who is able to brain them  
all : to whom Sampson replied. Sir I may  
boldly

## Wit and Mirth.

boldly venture against so many as you  
speake of, prouided that you will lend me  
one of your lawbones.

(81)

To playsterers being at worke for  
me at my house in Southwarke, did  
manytimes patch and dawbe out part of  
their dayes labour with prating, whitch I  
being digging in my Garden did ouerheare  
that their chatt was of their wines, and  
how that if I were able ( quoth one ) my  
wife should ride in pompe through London  
as I saw a Countesse ride yesterday : why  
quoth the other, how did shre ride I pray ?  
Mairy said he, in state, in her Horslitter.  
O base quoth the other, Horslitter : I p<sup>r</sup>o-  
test as pore a man as I am, I would haue  
allowed my wife a threepeny trus of clean  
straw.

(82)

Sr Edward Dyer came to the towne on  
some busynesse iust at the time as the  
Gate was newly shut, and the Warders  
going away with the keies, hee looking  
through the gate called to one of them say-  
ing, Ho<sup>e</sup> fellow I pray thee open the gate

## Wit and Mirth.

and let me in: None of your fellow Sir  
but a poore knaue: Why then said Sir Ed-  
ward, I pray thas poore knaue let me in: may  
no knaue neither, quoth the Warder.  
Why then said the knight, he was a knaue  
that told me so.

(83)

**O**nce met his friend in the streeete, and  
told him he was very sorry to see him  
ooke so ill, asking him what he ailed, hee  
replied that hee was now well amended  
but hee had beeне lately sickle of the Pore:  
What poy, the small pore, said his friend?  
Nay, quoth the other, my mind was not  
so base: for I had the bigest pore that I  
could get for my money,

(84)

**A**n honest Hostesse of mine at Oxford  
roasted an old shoulder of a Ram, which  
in the eating was as tough as a Buffe jer-  
kin: I did aske her what the reason was  
that the mutton was so tough: Shee said  
she knew not, except the Butcher deceipted  
her in the age of it, and she would tell him  
on both sides of his eares, like a knaue as

he

## Wit and Mirth.

was : Nay, quoth I, I thinke there is  
nother fault in it which will excuse the  
Butcher, for perhaps you roasted it with  
old wood : in troth quoth the hostesse it is  
like enough, and my husband never doth  
therwayes, but buyold stumps and knots  
which makes all the meat we either roast  
or boyle, so exceeding tough that no body  
can eate it.

(85)

O ne hearing a clock strike three when  
he thought it was not tws, said; this  
Clocke is like an hypocriticall Puritan,  
or though he will not sweare, yet he will  
ye abominably.

(86)

D icke Tarleton said that he could com-  
pare Queen Elizabeth to nothing  
more fitly then to a Sculler, for said hee,  
neither the Queen nor the Sculler hath  
fellow.

(86) Two

## Wit and Mirth:

(87)

**T**WO obstinate rich fellowes in Law  
(that had each of them more money  
then wit) by chance one of them comming  
out of Westminster Hall met with his ad-  
versaries wife, to whom he said, in troth  
good woman I doe much pity your case  
in that it is your hard fortune that such a  
foole as your husband should haue so dis-  
creet and modest a wife? The woman re-  
plyde In truth Sir I doe grieue more tha  
so honest a wife as you haue, shoule haue  
such a wrangling knaue to her husband.

(88)

**A**poore labouring man was married  
matched to a creature that so much  
sed to scold waking, that she had much a  
to restraine it sleeping, so that the poore man  
was so batter fang'd and belabour'd with  
tongue mettle, that he was weary of his  
life: at last fourre or five women that were  
his neighbours (pitying his case) came in  
his absence to his house to admonish and  
counsell his wife to a quiet behaviour to  
wards her husband: telling her that she  
was a shame to all good women, in her ba-  
village

## Wit and Mirth.

biage of so honest a painefull man: the woman replied to her neighbours, that shee thought her husband did not love her which was partly the cause that shee was so froward towards him; why ( said an old woman ) I will shew thee how thou shalt prove that he loves thee dearely, doe thou counterfeit thy selfe dead, and lye under the table, and one of us will fetch thy husband, and he shall find us heany and grieving for thee ; by which meanes thou shalt perceine by his lamentation for thee, how much he loves thee : this counsell was allowed and effected ; when the poore man came home, he hearing the matter ( being much opprest with griefe ) ranne under the table bewmoning the happy losse of his most kind veration, and making as though hee would kisse her, with a most louing embrase, to make all sure, he brake her neck. The neighbors pittyng the mans extreme passion, in compassion told him that his wife was not dead, and that all this was done but to make a triall of his loue towards her : whereupon they called her by her name, bidding her to rise and that shee had scolded it enough with her husband: but for all their calling, shee lay still, which mabe

## Wit and Mirth.

made one of the women to shake and togge her, at which the woman cryed, alas she is dead indeed: why this it is quoth her husband to dissemble and counterfeit with God and the world.

(90)

A planter of a Colledge in Oxford pos-  
sessing some crums of Logicke and  
chippings of Sophestrie, making distribu-  
tion of bread at the Schollers table, one of  
the Schollers complained vnto him that  
the bread were dow baked: Why quoth he,  
so it shoule be, what else is the definition of  
bread, but dough baked?

(91)

A miserable fellow in the country, did  
once a yeare vse to invite his neigh-  
hours to dinner, and as they were one time  
late, hee bade them welcome, saying, that  
there was a surcloyne of beeke, that the ore  
it came from cost 20. pound, and that there  
was a Capon that hee paid 2. shillings 6  
pence for in the market: at which a coun-  
try yeoman sittynge against the Capon, fel-

to

## Wit and Mirth.

to and cut off a leg of it, (the rest of the  
guests being not yet past their roast beeke)  
to whom the man of the house said, My  
friend, I pray thee eate some of this same  
surloyne: Oh sir, God forbid, quoth the  
fellow, I am but a poore man, an ore of 20  
pound price is too deare meat, a Capon of  
halfe a crowne will serue my turne well  
enough, I thanke you.

(92)

A Rich man told his nephew, that he had  
read a booke called *Lucius Apuleius*, of  
the Golden alle, and that hee found there  
how Apuleius after he had beene an alle  
many yeares, by eating of roses hee did  
recouer his manly shap again, and was no  
more an alle: the young man replied to  
his vnkle, Sir, if I were worthy to advise  
you, I would giue you counsell to eate a  
fallad of roses once a weeke your selfe.

(46)

A Fellow having beene married but fwe  
w<sup>e</sup>ekes, perceiued his wife to be great  
with child, wherefore she desired him to  
buy a cradle. shortly after hee went to a  
Faire

## Wit and Mirth.

Faire and bought ten cradles, and besy  
demanded why hee bought so many, he  
answred, that his wife wold haue bise for  
them all in one yeare.

(94)

A Gentleman vtrust and vbuttoned  
in a cold winter mōrning, a friend of  
his told him that it was not for his health  
to goe so open in the raw weather, and that  
he misled it did not kill hym to gos so oft  
vtrust: to whom the other replyed. Sir,  
you are of the mind of my Wilkeman, Her-  
ter or Tayler, for they find fault as you do  
because I goe so much on trust, but it is a  
fault I haue naturally from my parents  
and kindzed, and my creditoz tell me that  
I do imitate my betters.

(95)

A Justice of the peace committed a fel-  
low to prison, and commanded him a-  
way thre or four times, but still the fel-  
low entreated him. Sirrah (said the Ju-  
stice,) must I bid you bee gone so many  
times, and will you not go? The fellow an-  
swered, Sir, if your worship haue bidden me  
to dinner or supper, I shold in my poore  
man-

## Wit and Mirth.

manners not to haue taken your offer un-  
der two or three biddings, therefore I pray  
you blame me not if I looke for four bidd-  
ings to pay.

(96)

A Great man kept a miserable house so  
that his seruants did alwayes rise from  
the table with empty panches, though  
leane licked platters: truely said one of his  
men I thinke my Lord will worke mira-  
cles shortly, for though he practise not to  
raise the dead, or dispossesse the diuell, yet  
he goes about to scad his great family with  
almost nothing.

(97)

He said that Bias the Philosopher  
was the first Bowler: and that ever  
since the most part of Bowles doe in me-  
mory of their originall, weare his badge of  
remembrance, and very dutifullly hold  
Bias. Now to tell you, this Bias was one  
of the seven Sages or wise men of Greece,  
by authours to proue him the inventor of  
bowling, are Sharmooke, a famous Scy-  
rian Gymnosophist in his booke of rub-  
bing and running: of which opinion Bal-  
anus the Theban Dratour senes to bee  
in

## Wit and Mirth.

in his third treatise of court performance  
the likeliest conjecture is, that it was de-  
signed as an embleme to figure out the world  
folly and inconstancy: for though a child  
will ride a sticke or staffe with an imagi-  
nation that he is on horsebacke, or mak-  
pnes of di, or houses of cards, seed with  
spoones, and cry for threé pieces of brea  
and butter, which childish actions are re-  
culous to a man: yet this wise game  
bowling both make the Fathers surpas-  
their children, in apish toyes and most da-  
litate dogtrickes. As first for the posture  
1 handle your Bowle: 2 aduance your  
Bowle: 3 charge your Bowle: 4 ayde  
your Bowle; 5 discharge your Bowle  
6 plye your Bowle: in which last posture  
of plying your Bowle, you shall perceive  
many varieties and divisions as wringing  
of the neck, lifting vp of the shoulders, clap-  
ping of the hands, lying downe of one side  
running after the Bowle, making long  
dutifull scrapes and legs, (sometimes bare  
headed) entreating him to flee flee flee (with pippin or  
poron's when tis too short:) and though Ile assy-  
the Bowler be a Gentleman, yet there he may mee-  
te with attendant rookes; that as a Bowler  
sometimes will be his betters six to four because o

## Wit and Mirth.

or two to one. I doe not know any thing  
fitter to be compared to bowling than woo-  
ing, or louers, for if they doe not see one a-  
nothe in two dayes, they will say, Good  
Lord, it is seuen yeares since we saw each  
other, for Louers doe think that in absence  
time sleepeth, and in their presence that he  
is in a wild gallop: So a Bowler, although  
the ally or marke bee but thirty or forty  
paces, yet sometimes I haue heard the  
Bowler cry rub rub rub, and sweare and  
lye that hee was gone an hundred miles  
when the Bowle hath beene short of the  
blocke two yards, or that he was too short  
a thousand foot when he is vpon the head  
of the Jacke, or 10 or 12 foote beyond. In  
a word, there are many moze severall po-  
stures at bowles, than there are ridiculous  
idle tales or iests in my booke. Yet are the  
bowlers very weake stomackt, for they are  
ever casting: sometimes they giue the stab  
at the allyhead, but God bee thanked no  
blood shed, and sometimes they bestow a  
pippin one upon the other, but no good apple  
Ile assure you. The marke which they  
ayme at hath sandry names and epithites,  
; they as a Block, a Jack, and a Misstris: a Block  
four because of his birth and breading, shewing

## Wit and Mirth.

by his mettle of what house hee came : a  
Jacke, because he being smooth'd and got-  
ten into some handsome shape, forgets the  
house he came of, suffering his betters to  
giue him the often salute whilst he like  
Jacke sauce neither knows himselfe nor  
will know his superiours. But I hold a mis-  
tresse to be the fittest name for it, for there  
are some that are commonly termed mis-  
tresses, which are not much better than  
mine aunts : and a mistris is oftentimes  
a marke for every knave to haue a fling at  
every one strives to come so neere her that  
he wold kisse her : and yet some are shot  
some wide, and some ouer, and whose deth  
kisse it may perhaps sweeten his lips, but  
I assure him it shal never fill his belly, but  
rather empty his purse. So much for bow-  
ling, that I feare me I haue bowled be-  
yond the marke.

(98)

A Minister riding into the west ports  
of England, happened to stay at a vil-  
lage on Sunday, where he offered kindly  
to bellow a Sermonpon them: which the  
Constable hearing, did aske the Minister  
if he were licenced to preach? yes quoth he,  
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## Wit and Mirth.

that I am, and with that hee drew out of  
a box his Licence, which was in Latine.  
I verely, said the Constable, I understand no  
Latine, yet I pray you let me see it, I per-  
haps shall pick out here and there a word:  
No good sir, quoth the Minister, I will  
sau no words pickt out of it, for spoyleing  
my Licence.

(99)

## A Clinch.

A Country man being demanded how  
such a River was called, that ranne  
rough their Country: he answered that  
they never had need to call the River for it  
awyses came without calling.

(100)

A Fellow having his booke at the Ses-  
sions, was burnt in the hand, and  
as commanded to say, God sau the King  
the King, said he, God sau my Grandam.  
that taught me to reade, I am sure I had  
ene hanged else.

C 2

(101) A

## Wit and Mirth.

(151)

### v A toy to mocke an Ape.

In the time of Queen Elizabeth ther was a fellow that wore a brach in his hat, like a tooth-drawer, with a Rose and Crown and two letters: this fellow had a warrant from the Lord Chamberlaine at that time to travell with an exceeding braue Ap which he had; whereby hee gat his living from time to time at markets and fayres his Ape did alwayes ride upon a mastiff dog, and a man with a drum to attend him. It happened that these fourre traveller came to a towne called Looe in Cornwall. Where the Inne being taken, the drum went about to signifie to the people, that such an Inne was an Ape of singular bise and quality, if they pleased to bestow their time and money to see him: now the townsmen being honest labouring Fisher and other painfull functioners, had no leisure to wast either time or coyne in Ape-tricks so that no audience came to the Inne, to the great grieve of Jack-an-Apes his master who collecting his wits together, resolu to aduenture to put a trick vpon the tow whatsoever came of it: whereupon he to

## Wit and Mirth.

pen, inke, and paper, and wrote a warrant  
to the Mayor of the towne, as followeth.

These are to will and require you, and every of you, with your wiues and families, that vpon the sight hereof you make your personall appearance before the Queenes Ape, for it is an Ape of ranke and quality, who is to be practised through her Majesties dominions, that by his long experience mongst her louing subiects, he may be the better enabled to do her Maiesty seruice hereafter; and hereof faile you not, as you will answer to the contrary, &c.

This Warrant being brought to the Mayor, he sent for a shoomaker at the furthest end of the towne to read it: which when he heard, he sent for all his brethren, who went with him to the towne Hall to consult upon this weighty busines. Whereafter they had late a quarter of an hour no man saying any thing, nor any man knowing what to say; at last a young man that never had borne any office, said, Gentleman, if I were fit to speake I thinkes (with-out offence, under correction of the Mayorfull) that I should some derive this busines; to whom the Mayor said, I pray good neighbour speak, for though you never did

## Wit and Mirth.

bearre any office here, yet you may speake  
as wisely as some of vs. Then sir, said the  
young man, my opinion is, that this Ape  
carrier is a gybing, scoffing Banane, and one  
that doth purpose to make this towne a  
lesting mocking stocke through the whole  
kingdome, soz was it ever knowne that a  
fellow shoule be so impudent audacious as  
to send a warrant without either name or  
date, to a Mayoz of a towne, to the Queen  
Lieutenant, and that he with his brethren  
their wifes and families, shoule be al com  
manded to come before a lack-an-apes? My  
counsell is that you take him and his Ape  
with his man, and his dogge, and whip th  
whole messe or murrinall of them out o  
the towne, which I thinke will be much  
for your credit if you doe.

At which words a grave man of th  
towne being much moued, said, My fren  
you haue spoken little better then treason  
soz it is the Queens Ape, and thereso  
belware what you say; you say true, sa  
master Mayor, I my selfe who bade that sau  
cy fellow come into our company, I pray  
thee my friend depart, I thinke you long t  
haue vs all hanged. So in bries he was  
put out of the dores, for they were no com  
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## Wit and Mirth.

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ake party for him. Well now what is to bee  
done in this matter? Marry (said another  
Senyor) we see by the Broch in the mans  
hat that he is the Queens man, and who  
knowes what power a knave may haue in  
the Court to doe poore men wrong in the  
Country? let us goe and see the Ape, it is  
but 2 pence a peice, and no doubt but it will  
be well taken, and if it come to the Queens  
ear, she will thinke us kinde people that  
would shew so much duty to her Ape, what  
may she thinke we would doe to her Beare  
if they came hither: besides it is aboue 200  
miles to London, and if we should be com  
plained on & fetched vp with Pursuivants,  
whereas now every man may escape for  
his 2 pence, Ile warrant it would cost us  
10 groats a peice at the least. This coun  
sell passed currant, and all the whole droue  
of the townesmen, with wifes and children  
went to see the Ape, who was sitting on a  
table with a chain about his neck, to whom  
master Mayoy (because it was the Queens  
Ape) put off his hat, & made a leg but lackt  
let him passe vnregarded. But mister  
Mayoyesse coming next in her cleane linnen  
held her hands before her belly, and like a  
woman of godynning made a lowe curtsey

## Wit and Mirth.

whilst Jacke (still Court-like) although  
respected not the man, yet to expresse his  
courtesie to his wife he put forth his paw  
towards her, and made a mouth, which the  
woman perceiving, said, Husband I doe  
think in my conscience that the Queenes  
Ape doth mocke me: whereat Jacke made  
another mouth at her, which master Mayo  
espying, was very angry, saying, Sirrah,  
thou Ape, I doe see thy sauciness, and if  
the rest of the courtiers haue no more man-  
ners then thou hast, then they haue all bin  
better fed then taught: and I will make  
thee know before thou goest from hence  
that this woman is my wife, an ancient  
woman, and a midwife, and one that may  
be thy mother for age.

In this rage master Mayo, went to the  
Inn dwre, where Jack-an-Apes tutor was  
gathering of money, to whom he said, Sir  
doe you allow your Ape to abuse my wife?  
No sir quoth the other, not by any meanes  
truly sayd the Mayo, there is witnessesse e-  
nough within that haue seene him make  
mops and mowes at her, as if she were not  
worthy to wipe his shooes, and I will not  
so put it vp. Jackes tutor replied, Sir, I  
will presently giue him condigne punish-

## Wit and Mirth.

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nent: and straight he tooke his Flanders  
blade, his Whip, and holding his Ape by  
the chaime, he gaue him halfe a dozen terks  
which made his teeth dance in his head  
like so many Virginall Jackes: Which  
master Mayoz perceiving, ran to him, and  
held his hands, saying, Enough, enough,  
good sir, you haue done like a Gentleman,  
let me intreat you not to give correction  
in your w Rath: and I pray you and your  
Ape after the play is done, to come to my  
house and sup with me and my wife.

(103).

This Tale I writ on purpose to stick in the  
teeth of my proud squeamish nice criti-  
call Reader.

A Countryman brought his wines wa-  
ter to a Physician, saying, Good mor-  
row to your Worshipp, master Confusion:  
Physician thou wouldest say, said the other  
truly, said the fellow, I am no Scholler,  
but altogether bnrude, and very ingrum,  
& I haue here my wines water in a pottle  
pot, beseeching your mastership to call at a  
So the Physician tooke the water, which  
having put into an basinne and viewed it  
he said My friend thy wife is very weare-

*printed by W. M.*

## Wit and Mirth.

truly, quoth he, I thinke shē be ill a presumption or a consumption thou wouldest say said the Physician; I told you before (the fellowe replied) that I doe not understand your allegant speches. Well quoth the Doctor, doth thy wife kepe her bed? No, truly sir, said he, she sold her bed a fortnight since: verily, quoth the Doctor, she is very costine: Costly said the man, your Worshippayes true for I haue spent all that I haue vpon her almost. Said the Doctor, I doe not say costly but costine: and I pray thee tell me, is shee loose or bound? Indeed sir, said the man, shē is bound to me during her life, and I am bound to her: yea but I pray thee said the doctor, tell me in plaine termes how shē goes to stōle? truly said the fellow, in plaine termes shē goes to stōol very strangely, for in the mooring it is so hard that your Worshipp can scarce hit it with your feath, and at night it is so thin that you might eat it with a spoone.

(103)

**C**od fellowes having well walshed their wits in wine at a Taverne, one of them was very importunate to be gone; to whom another of them said, I pray thee be

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## Wit and Mirth.

be patient, talke no more of going, for if thou wilt sit stil but a little, thou shalt find that we shall all be gone, though wee stay here.

(104)

A P Idiot, who dwelt with a rich vnkle he had, was by a Courtier begged for a foole; which the foole perceiving ran home to his unkles Parlour which was fairely hung with Tapestry hangings and in every one of the hangings was the figure of a foole wrought: So the Foole watching his opportunity that no body was in the parlour, hee tooke a knife and cut the fooles pictures out of every hanging and went and hid them in a hay-mow, which when his unkles came in and saw, he was very angry, demanded who had spoyled his hangings? Ah nunkle, said the Idiot, I did cut out all the fooles, for there is a great man at Court that hath beggyn me for a foole, and he would haue all the rich fooles he can haire of: therelsoe did I cut them all out of your hangings, and I haue hid them where I thinke hee will not find them in halfe.

SUGGER

(105)

## Wit and Mirth.

(105)

A Fellow being scoulded at by his wife, would make her beleeme hee would drowne himselfe: and as he went toward the riuver, his Wife followed him, desiring him to forbear, or at least to let her speake with him; well, quoth hee, speake briefly for I am in haste: then husband said shée seeing you will drowne your selfe let me intreat you to take my counsell, which is, that you cast not your selfe into this shallow place here, for it will grieue my heart to see how long you will be a dying: but goe with me a little way, and I will shew you a deepe place, where you shall be dispatched presently.

(106)

A Woman in Scotland lay dying, to whom her husband said, Wife now thou art about to leau me alone, I pray thee tell me with whom shall I marry. Shée replied, are you in hast to marry before the breath be out of my body, then marry the diuels dam: not so wife, said he, I haue had his daughter already, and if I should match with his mother too, then I should be guilty of incest.

(107)

There

## Wit and Mirth:

(107)

There was a Gentleman that was of a very hasty disposition, so that he would fret and chafe almost at all things, and bee seldom pleased with any thing, and withall was a great Tobacco taker, and as one time he beat and kick'd his man, the fellow ran from him, and told one of his fellowes that he thought his master was transformed into Brawne, for he was all Choller, and that he thought the reason of his kicking was, because he dranke Coltsfoot among his Tobacco.

(108)

A Doctor of Physick in Italy asked a waterman if he might goe well by water over the river Po, the fellow told him yea: but the Doctor when he came to the water side and saw it was a little rough weather was very angry, and said, You watermen are the veriest knaves in the world, for to gaine sixpence you care not to cast a man away: to whom the Waterman replyed Sir, it appeares wee are men of a cheaper function and better conscience than you: for you sometimes will not cast a man away under 40, 50, or 100 crownes.

(109) One

## Wit and Mirth.

(109)

**O**nne borrowed a cloake of a gentleman  
and met one that knew him, who said  
I thinke I know that cloake: it may be so,  
said the other, I borrowed it of such a gen-  
tleman: the other told him that it was too  
short: yea but quoth he that had the cloake  
I will haue it long enough before I bring  
it home againe.

(110)

**A**wore womans husband was to be  
hanged at the towne of Lancaster; and  
on the execution day shée intreated the  
Shrieue to bee good to her and stand her  
friend: the Shrieue said that he could doe  
her no hurt, for her husband was condem-  
ned and indged by the Law, and thereforeze  
he must suffer. Ah god master Shrieue,  
said the woman, it is not his life that I  
aske, but because I haue farre home, and  
my mare is old and fiske, therfore I would  
intreat you to doe me the fauour to let my  
husband be hanged first.

(111)

**O**nne came into a College in an Uni-  
versity, and asked how many Fel-  
lowes belonged to the house: another re-  
plied,

## Wit and Mirth.

lyed, that there were more good fellowes  
then good Schollers two to one.

(112)

A Fellow being drunke was brought  
before a Justice, who committed him  
to prison: and the next day when he was to  
be discharged, he was to come to the Justice  
again, who said to him, Hirrah you were  
not drunke the last night? your Worship  
ayes true sayd the fellow. Yes but you  
were drunke, said the Justice, and you did  
abuse me, and said I was a wise Justice:  
the fellow replyed, If I said so, I thinke I  
was drunke indeed, and I cry your Wor-  
ship mercy, for I will neuer doe you that  
wzong when I am sober.

(113)

A Spaniard hauing but one eye chanced  
to meet a man in the field where drawing  
both their Rapiers, the other man  
with an unfortunate thust struck out the  
other eye of the Spaniard, whereat the  
blind man suddenly cast down his Ravier,  
saying, Buenas noches, which in the Spa-  
nish tongue is goodnight:

FINIS.

This Author hath newly caused all his worke  
(being aboue 60) to be printed into one Volum  
the names of all which Workes are set downe in this  
following Catalogue.

Apolis Vrania.	A Whore.
The life and death of the Virgin Mary.	A Theefe.
The whip of pride.	A Hangman.
Against cursing and swearing.	The vnnaturall Father.
The fearfull Summer.	Taylor's revenge.
Christian Admitionas.	Fenners defence.
The travell of twelue pence.	A cast ower the water.
The Armado.	The praise of cleane linnen.
The Beggar.	The Watermans sute.
Taylor's Goose.	Wit and Mirth.
Lacke a Lent.	A Dog of warre.
Taylor's pennilesse Pilgrymage.	The world runs on Wheeles.
The Sculler.	The nipping or snipping of byses.
The Dolphin's danger.	A Chronicle from Brute.
The Cormorant.	A Briefe from the Conquest.
A Sea-fight by Captaine W-	A farewell to the Tower bottell.
dall.	The marriage of the Princess
The praise of Hempseed.	Elizabeth.
Taylor's Pastorall.	An Elegie for King James.
Prince Charles his welcome from Spaine.	An Elegie for the Earle of Nottingham.
An English mans loue to Bohemia.	An Elegie for the Earle of Hertfornesse.
Three weekes and three dayes travels.	An elegie for the Bishop of Winchester.
Taylor's farewell to Bohemia.	An Elegie for the Duke of Richmond.
Sir Gregory Non schie.	An elegie for John Moray, clquire.
A very mery whirly voyage.	The sum of the Bible in verse.
The great O'Toole.	The summe of the Booke of Martyrs in verse.
A voyage to the West.	The Churches deliverances.
The Scourge of basenesse.	Archies making peace with France.
Taylor's Moord.	The Acts and exploits of Willm the greatest in Kent.
Odeombs complaint.	
Coriat's resurrection,	
Laugh and be fat.	
Coriat's newes,	
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